

Assessing the Condition of Your Roads

The purpose of this worksheet is to enable you to evaluate the condition of the roads on your property. Understanding road conditions will help you plan and prioritize actions that will improve your ability to manage your property. The assessment process includes several steps:

- Identifying access routes to your property and your rights and responsibilities concerning them.
- Mapping existing roads on your property.
- Deciding which roads you need for management.
- Deciding if you need new roads.
- Evaluating the condition of your existing roads, including both those you will use and those you won't use.

Note: The worksheet asks for yes-no answers. A don't know answer may imply a need-to-know.

Access to Your Property

If a public road adjoins or abuts your property and you have a legal encroachment permit to use it for access, you are in good shape. However, just because you have a driveway from a public road to your property does not necessarily mean that it is legal. Check your deed or check with the jurisdiction (city, county or state) that has responsibility for the public road. If you have access from a road on land owned by a federal agency such as the Forest Service, check with the agency's local offices.

If you have access to your property through another property or by private road, you need to know if you have legal rights of access. This is usually recorded on your deed as a right-of-way. If you don't have deeded access, then you need to know what rights you have to use the road. You also need to know what responsibilities you have for maintaining the road and what uses are restricted (e.g., hauling logs). In the absence of a legal right to use the road, you are vulnerable to the whims of your neighbor and need to negotiate that right.

1. Does a public road provide access to your property (e.g., county road or state highway)?

- Yes No Don't Know

2. Does a private (including public agency) road provide access to your property (e.g., subdivision road, road through adjoining private or public lands)?

- Yes No Don't Know

3. Do you have deeded access to your property?

- Yes No Don't Know

If you don't have deeded access, by what right can you use the road?

4. If access is by private road, does it receive regularly scheduled maintenance?
 Yes No Don't Know
5. Are you part of a road maintenance agreement or association?
 Yes No Don't Know
6. Do you have responsibilities for maintaining roads that provide access to your property?
 Yes No Don't Know

Access on Your Property

There may be a number of roads on your property, some of which are a legacy of past uses (e.g., old logging roads). Legacy roads can be a liability if they are causing environmental damage. Sometimes roads are shown on published topographic maps or other maps of your property. Sometimes they need to be located in the field or with aerial photographs and sketched on a map.

1. To the best of your ability, use a topographic map (quadrangle) to indicate the road system on your property. Identify and number (Road #1, Road #2, etc.) main and secondary roads that are in use as well as any roads that exist but are not used.
2. Does your on-site road system allow you to access all of your property?
 Yes No Don't Know
3. Indicate on a map what parts of your property are not currently accessible by road.
4. Now, you need to walk or drive your roads. For each existing road, provide the following descriptive information (note: for all these tables, use the road numbering system for reference and duplicate tables for as many roads and crossings as necessary):

	Road #1	Road #2	Road #3
Width (running surface in feet)			
Range of grades (from steepest to gentlest slopes, in percent)			
Surfacing (native, rock, paved)			
Drainage (insloped with inboard ditch, outsloped, not evident or don't know)			

5. For each existing road, provide any information on the following problems. If possible, use your map to indicate where the problems are located:

	Road #1	Road #2	Road #3
Cutback sloughing or failure			
Fill slope erosion or failure			
Rutting on the road surface			
Potholes on the road surface			
Wet spots on the road surface			
Gully erosion below the road			
Eroding ditch or plugged cross drains			
Other			

6. Indicate on a map all existing stream crossings on existing roads (note: streams may be ephemeral, intermittent or perennial). Identify each by sequentially numbering in relation to road numbering system (Road #1, Crossing #1, Road #2, Crossing #1, etc.). For each crossing, provide the following descriptive information:

Road # _____				
	Crossing # _____	Crossing # _____	Crossing # _____	Crossing# _____
Crossing type (culvert, ford, bridge)				
Crossing condition (good, fair, poor)				
Fill slope condition (stable, some erosion, major erosion)				

7. For each crossing, provide any information on the following problems:

Road # _____				
	Crossing # _____	Crossing # _____	Crossing # _____	Crossing# _____
Crossing undersized for the size of the stream				
Crossing not aligned with channel				
Crossing is not at the slope of the stream				
Downstream channel or bank erosion				
Upstream channel or bank erosion				
Upstream sediment deposition				
Prone to plugging with debris				
Diversion potential				

Summary of Findings

1. Is access to your property adequate?

Yes No Don't Know

2. If not, what issues need to be addressed?

- Rights of access:
- Road condition and maintenance:
- Other:

3. Is access within your property adequate?

Yes No Don't Know

4. If not, what issues need to be addressed?

- Need for additional access:
- Condition of roads that are used or will be used:
- Condition of other roads:
- Condition of crossings on used roads:
- Condition of crossings on unused roads: